

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 042941

EXDIS, FOR AMBASSADOR AND SEITZ FROM MOOSE

E.O. 11652:X-GDS-3

TAGS: RH, UK, PDEV

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE MEETING WITH SITHOLE

REF: SEITZ -EDMONDSON TELCON

1. IF SITHOLE SHOULD REQUEST A MEETING SPECIFICALLY
WITH THE AMBASSADOR WHILE IN LONDON, WE SEE NO PROBLEM IN
YOUR MEETING WITH HIM, IF YOU WISH AND IF YOUR SCHEDULE
PERMITS. HOWEVER, IF HE MAKES NO MOVE TO SET UP A MEETING,
YOU SHOULD CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF ASKING RAY TO GET IN
TOUCH WITH HIM. IF MEETING AT OUR INITIATIVE ENSUES, IT
SHOULD PROBABLY BE KEPT AT EMBASSY OFFICER RATHER THAN
AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL. THIS WOULD AVOID MISINTERPRETATION
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OF OUR INVITATION TO MEET AS ANYTHING MORE THAN A LOW-KEY
EXCHANGE OF VIEWS.

2. PRIMARY PURPOSE OF MEETING WOULD BE TO SOUND SITHOLE
OUT ON PROBABLE NEXT STEPS IN SALISBURY. YOU SHOULD ALSO
TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. AT MALTA THE US/UK STOOD BY OUR BASIC PRINCIPLES THAT NO ONE PARTY SHOULD BE GRANTED SPECIAL ADVANTAGE DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD OR BEYOND. WE ARE AWARE OF YOUR CONCERNS AND HAVE TAKEN SPECIAL CARE IN OUR CONSULTATIONS

WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT NOT TO ACCEPT ANY FORMULATIONS WHICH WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF CURTAILING YOUR OPPORTUNITY AT A FAIR CHANCE OF ELECTORAL SUCCESS.

B. AT THE SAME TIME WE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR IN MALTA AND ELSEWHERE THAT WE BELIEVE THAT TO BE LASTING AND PEACEFUL A SETTLEMENT MUST OFFER REAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION WITHOUT INTIMIDATION TO ALL OF THE RECOGNIZED NATIONALIST GROUPS. WE ARE CONCERNED, AS YOU KNOW, THAT ATTEMPTS AT SETTLEMENT WHICH PURPOSEFULLY EXCLUDE SOME FORCES ARE UNLIKELY TO BRING AN END TO THE FIGHTING OR EARN THE NECESSARY RHODESIAN DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT.

C. WE ARE INTERESTED IN YOUR VIEWS OF THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT AND WHERE YOU BELIEVE THOSE TALKS WILL LEAD NOW. IT APPEARS TO US THAT MANY CENTRAL ISSUES ARE YET TO BE DISCUSSED OR RESOLVED. IN PARTICULAR, WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW YOUR THINKING ABOUT HOW YOU INTEND TO BRING THE FIGHTING TO AN END, RESTRUCTURE THE ARMY, OFFER FAIR OPPORTUNITIES TO OTHER POLITICAL LEADRS, FORM AN INTERIM CONFIDENTIAL

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GOVERNMENT, AND CONDUCT ELECTIONS.

3. YOU MAY SHARE THESE TALKING POINTS WITH THE FCO, AND IN TURN ASK FOR A COPY OF THE SPEAKING NOTES OWEN WILL HAVE USED DURING THIS MEETING WITH SITHOLE (WHICH WE PRESUME WILL OCCUR BEFORE YOU MEET WITH HIM.) VANCE

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